

UCLA Faculty Association

News and opinion from Dan Mitchell since 2009

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Friday, February 28, 2025

Legit

UC has hired UnifyHR* to operate a Family Member Reverification process (FMEV) for verification of your family members (if any) eligible for UC benefits.

This verification will involve several types of communications from UnifyHR. It will be important NOT to treat such communications as a SCAM!



See the web site: <https://ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu/benefits/understanding-your-benefits/eligibility/family-member-eligibility-verification/>.

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*<https://www.unifyhr.com/>.

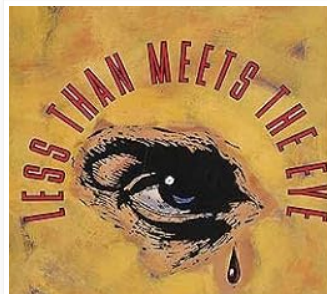
Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:30 AM](#)

No comments:



Labels: [health care](#), [UC](#)

Less than you might have thought



wealthy colleges.

You may have read that a judge blocked the anti-DEI rulings of the Trump administration as they applied to higher ed. Apparently, however, there was less to that ruling than you might have thought. From [Inside Higher Ed](#):

...The plaintiffs who challenged the anti-DEI orders say the four-page [Dept. of Education] guidance letter is "inconsistent" with the judge's ruling, which found that the language in the two anti-DEI executive orders was unconstitutionally vague. The judge blocked the Trump administration from terminating "equity-related" grants and investigating

The Council of UC Faculty Associations

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- [Common Calendar Action Committee: Summary Report On Survey Comments](#)
- [Common Calendar Survey Results](#)
- [Common Systemwide Calendar Workgroup](#)
- [UCSA's Letter Asking UC to Expand Commitment to Vulnerable Populations](#)

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- [Liner Note 17: Fighting the Knowledge Bonfire is Working: Expertise is Central to the Movement - 2/22/2025](#)
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But the department says the injunction does not cover its guidance document. Outside higher education lawyers largely agree with the department and suggest that colleges should still prepare to comply. "My short-term or abbreviated thought would be to proceed with caution," said Jackson Sharman III, a partner at Lightfoot, Franklin & White LLC.

Craig Trainor, acting assistant secretary for civil rights, doesn't think there should be any confusion after the injunction. He said in a statement to Inside Higher Ed that the letter was based on federal law, such as Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits discrimination based on race, color or national origin, and the equal protection clause in the Constitution—not the president's executive orders.

"While additional guidance is forthcoming, this isn't complicated," he said. "When in doubt, every school should consult the SFFA legal test contained in the DCL: 'If an educational institution treats a person of one race differently than it treats another person because of that person's race, the educational institution violates the law.'" ...

Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/politics-elections/2025/02/25/education-dept-dei-guidance-unaaffected-court-order>.

Here is what UC had to say about the letter:

...UC leadership across the system is working with members of our community to evaluate the potential impact and implications of the letter and will provide updates or guidance as appropriate. As many in our community are aware, the University of California has been operating under longstanding state law requirements and does not consider race, sex, color, ethnicity, or national origin in our practices...

Source: https://ucop.edu/communications/_files/dei-program-letter-us-dept-of-education.pdf.

Translation: Because of the fact that California's anti-affirmative action Prop 209 is in effect, UC is already in compliance with the letter.

Will that rationale fly? Who knows?

Posted by California Policy Issues at [3:20 AM](#) No comments:     

Labels: [diversity](#), [politics](#), [UC](#)

Thursday, February 27, 2025

Town Hall on Federal Developments

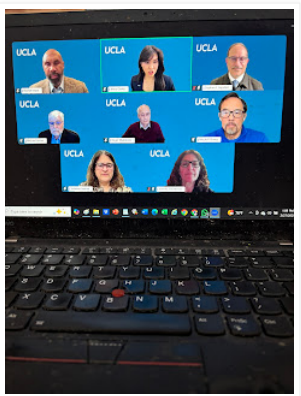
UCLA held an online "town hall" on federal developments. The potential cost to UCLA of the cut in overhead payments on NIH grants to 15 percent was put at around \$100 million. The potential threat to other sources of federal income, e.g., Medicare, Medi-Cal and other health insurance payments received by the health enterprise, were not discussed. Nonetheless, it was said that the administration is doing contingency planning for possible cuts and the magnitudes involved were too big to be dealt with by some kind of temporary bridge funding from other sources. In particular, the state budget outlook would seem to preclude aid from that source.

It was also said that the reported UC-San Diego freeze on which we have reported was not complete.

The town hall was recorded and it was said it will be available on a UCLA website. It isn't there at the time of this posting but we have an audio recording (with still pictures) available for now:

<https://ia800105.us.archive.org/29/items/newsom-1-2-25-new-laws/UCLA%20Town%20Hall%20on%20Federal%20Developments%202-27-2025.mp4>.

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Ed Leamer (1944 - 2025)

The UCLA Anderson Forecast will be holding its quarterly presentation next week. It's former director, Prof. Ed Leamer, recently passed away. From an email by Anderson Dean Tony Bernardo:

I'm very sad to pass along the news that Edward Leamer, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Global Economics and Management, and Director Emeritus, UCLA Anderson Forecast, passed away on Tuesday, February 25.

Ed joined our faculty in 1990 as the Chauncey J. Medberry Chair in Management. His appointment at UCLA Anderson represented a move across the UCLA campus from the Department of Economics, where Ed had been a member of the faculty since 1975. In addition to his professorship, he served as director of the UCLA Anderson Forecast from 2000 until 2016.

Ed's contributions to the field of economics were profound. Throughout his career, his specific interests broadened, shifted and evolved, making it difficult to summarize his myriad essential contributions to the field.

"There was an important element of storytelling in his methodology and approach," recalls his friend and close colleague Professor Sebastian Edwards. "There had to be a narrative, supported by a combination of technical and nontechnical tools. But in order for the narrative to be persuasive, very sophisticated statistical techniques were needed and he was one of the strongest statisticians in the profession from a technical point of view. The narratives he built were anchored on solid theory."

Throughout his career, Ed authored numerous journal articles, books and book chapters. They include his seminal American Economics Review article "Let's Take the Con Out of Econometrics," as well as his books Specification Searches: Ad Hoc Inference with Non-Experimental Data and Macroeconomic Patterns and Stories. In the famous paper, Ed advocated for a more critical approach to econometrics, underscoring the need to check how sensitive results are to different data specifications and model assumptions to avoid misleading interpretations, thus encouraging economists to state their assumptions, limitations and potential biases in their analysis to promote greater transparency and accountability.

"One of Ed's most important contributions was to emphasize that economic data come from non-repeated events, and therefore the methodology of interpretation of statistical analysis of that data must perforce be different than that applied in the natural sciences," says Professor Jerry Nickelsburg, who worked alongside Ed at the UCLA Anderson Forecast, before succeeding him as director. "That perspective made a significant difference in the application of economics to policy issues."

As director of the Forecast, Ed influenced business practitioners in every field and, in his December 2000 forecast, he stood virtually alone in predicting the 2001 recession. At Anderson, he taught courses in business and global economics, his most profound impact made in the more than 40 doctoral committees he participated in, including more than 30 he chaired.

As a student, Ed earned his B.A. in mathematics at Princeton University, and his master's in mathematics (statistics) and Ph.D. in economics at the University of Michigan. Prior to joining UCLA's Economics faculty, he held a number of positions in academia and elsewhere, including appointments at Harvard University, the Federal Reserve Board, the National Bureau of Economic Research, Central European University and Yale University, among others. In 2016, Ed was the vice-presidential running mate during his friend and fellow economist Laurence Kotlikoff's run for president of the United States.

It's impossible to overstate Ed Leamer's impact on the field of economics and academia. One way to measure his influence, though, is to note that just weeks before he died, nearly 200 of his colleagues, family and friends gathered online to pay him tribute. Those in attendance included no less than three recipients of the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economics, along with dozens of fellow economists, a group that included many of Ed's former students. Ed once said that the most difficult thing a person can do is engage in deep thought. His brother, the



Is this really the hill UC wants to die on?

Coming Not-So-Soon to an NIH Grant Near You

TPM - Part 2 (Senate didn't know)

More Reasons to Avoid Wilshire If You Come to UCLA...

Messages

It may seem off in the horizon, but the future lie...

6 Sloan Fellows at UCLA

Lost Funding

Reminder: The \$80 Million Question

Not safe

Deadline

Unclear

TPM

Watch the Regents Meeting of Jan. 23, 2025

What might have been

Impending Strike News

The Letter

2 UCLA professors elected to the National Academy ...

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It would be nice...

For the record...

Don Shoup (1938 - 2025)

Maybe the First...

Protecting the House - Part 2

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2 Items for Consideration by the Senate - Part 2

Something finally happened - but nothing was resol...

The 15% Cap - Part 5

Nimoy

Watch the Afternoon Meeting of the Regents: Jan. 2...

Chancellor Suspends 2 Student Groups for Misconduct...

Stop - for now

3% Plus

Updated Subway Work

Something Is Rescheduled to Happen - Part 2

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Follow the (federal) Money

Freezing-Unfreezing - Part 3

The 15% Cap - Part 3

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Demolition - Part 3

Slasher

Demolition - Part 2

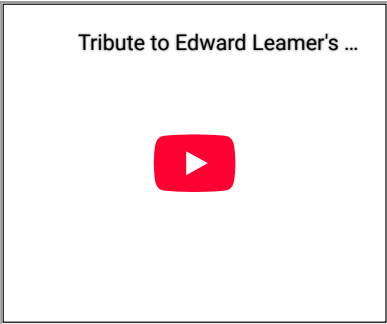
UCLA Anderson Forecast on Cost of Fires

esteemed journalist and author Laurence Leamer, echoed that sentiment in reference to Ed at the end of the tribute. "The greatest adventure is the intellectual adventure," Laurence said of his brother, "and he has climbed Everest, run the four-minute mile and swum the English Channel."

Please join me in expressing our most sincere condolences to Ed's wife, UCLA Anderson alumna Ama Neel ('97), along with his children, grandchildren and family members.

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Before Prof. Leamer died, an online symposium, which he attended, was held in his honor:



Or direct to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tg3XEz9inVE>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 5:23 PM

No comments:

The times, they are a'changing (at the Faculty Club)



The email from the Faculty Club below was blocked by a (not-so) clever spam-blocking system called Minecast, which some departments at UCLA use. But that's a story for another day. Here is the message:

Message from the Faculty Club President, Linda Sarna

February 26, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

As our community is recovering from the dreadful fires in January and the rains in February, Spring is around the corner. Since the beginning of our partnership with UCLA Housing & Hospitality (H & H), January 2nd, the operations at the Club continue to evolve. As some members heard at our February 22 Board of Governors meeting, Andrea Curthoys, our valued General Manager for the past 18-months, has made the decision to step down, effective March 3. A Bruin alum, Andrea was especially helpful in facilitating the transition to our new operational structure with H & H over the past six-months. During her time here, she brought creative ideas and fun promotions that enhanced the Club's culture. We very much appreciate her many contributions to the Club and wish her well.

Following discussions with H&H leadership, we want to assure you that a strong team and support structure are in place to ensure a seamless transition. Guadalupe (Lupe) Morales, who has been working at the Faculty Club since December, will step in as Interim General Manager, overseeing day-to-day operations while the recruitment effort is conducted to search for a permanent replacement. With over twenty-five years of experience as a Food Service Manager, and thirty-five in the hospitality industry, she is a font of knowledge. I am sure that many of you have seen her on site. Please say hello! Additionally, Al Ferrone, H&H's Senior Director of Food & Beverage, will continue to provide operational oversight and strategic guidance, ensuring the Board remains informed and that the Club continues to run smoothly.

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- Another Lawsuit - and another
- A bit of history
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► January (81)

- 2024 (832)
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- 2022 (719)
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- 2019 (671)
- 2018 (595)
- 2017 (666)
- 2016 (715)
- 2015 (765)
- 2014 (704)
- 2013 (776)
- 2012 (839)
- 2011 (738)
- 2010 (431)
- 2009 (12)

Contributors

- California Policy Issues
- Toby Higbie
- UCLA Faculty Association

With the continued leadership of Lupe and Al, as well as the full support of H&H, members should anticipate no fall-off in level of service and hospitality during the transitional period and during the recruitment process for a new General Manager. In fact, we were happy to receive positive comments about the Club's food at our Board meeting. The Faculty Club's operations will continue without disruption, and we remain committed to enhancing the overall experience for our members. We appreciate your ongoing support during this transition and will keep you informed as we move forward with the recruitment process.

The Board has been actively engaged in creating a new set of Bylaws to fit with the changes in responsibility for the Board of the Faculty Club. We expect to approve these in late March. This may affect the timing for future Board elections.

In keeping with our changed operational structure as well as the time frame for staffing at the Club, we have changed the time and dates of our future Board meetings (now March 21, April 24, May 22, and June 13, all from 2-3:30).

We are hopeful that the change in our name from the Faculty Club to the University Club will be approved soon. Finally, we are moving forward with the renovation plans for the North Hallway restroom. Stay tuned!

All the best,

Linda Sarna

President, Faculty Club

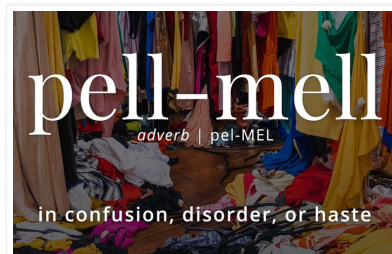
Posted by California Policy Issues at 9:14 AM No comments:     

Labels: [faculty center](#), [UCLA](#)

Pell-Mell

From [Inside Higher Ed](#):

Amid all the chaos and upheaval for federal higher education policy, the Pell Grant program is running out of money. In January, the Congressional Budget Office projected a \$2.7 billion budget shortfall for the program next fiscal year, its first shortfall in over a decade. By fiscal year 2026–27, the CBO projects that the program will be short \$10 billion unless Congress puts more money toward the grants.



The Pell Grant provides need-based federal financial aid for more than 30 percent of American college students. College access advocates have worried for years about the program's financial health and warn that without a funding increase, low-income students will lose essential funding that already fails to keep up with rising tuition costs and inflation...

While \$3 billion is a small chunk of the total education budget, it would be a significant boost to the \$34 billion currently in the budget proposal for next fiscal year. Michele Zampini, senior director of college affordability at the Institute for College Access and Success, said the newest Republican push for austerity in higher education funding bodes poorly for the chances of avoiding a Pell shortfall...

The "doomsday scenario," [Sandy] Baum [of the Urban Institute] said, is that Pell Grants become overtly politicized, where the government bases colleges' eligibility on things like adherence to new anti-DEI orders. On Feb. 14 the Education Department issued a letter threatening colleges with the loss of federal funding if they did not eliminate all race-conscious programs. "They could decide you don't get Pell if you go to a school they don't like," she said. "It's extremely unlikely, but it no longer seems out of the question." ...

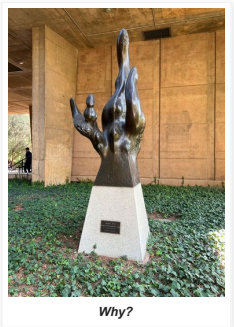
Full story at <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/student-aid-policy/2025/02/24/projected-pell-shortfall-could-diminish-federal-aid>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:30 AM No comments: 

Labels: [diversity](#), [politics](#)

Why?

If you go to the Bunche Hall side of UCLA's sculpture garden on north campus, you will find one piece entitled "Why?". It's a good segue to the ongoing plan to convert the UC campuses that are on the quarter system to semesters.



As we noted in an earlier post, UC was once on a semester system but with the baby boomers looming in the 1960s, it was thought that a four-quarter system, i.e., year-round operation, could accommodate the expected influx of boomers with less capital expenditure. It turned out that the boomers didn't want to spend their summers on campus so the original goal was not satisfied. But by then, the campuses had already paid the steep price of converting every class and every program to three quarters.

Now there is an push to do what Berkeley did and pay another steep price of converting back to semesters. (Merced, as a new campus, was created on a semester basis.) So the question is Why?

And there is a sub-question. What is the advantage of having all campuses on the same system since they are separate institutions?

Back in the 19th century, railroads that went east-west had a problem. In order for telegraphers to monitor and control the system, there needed to be a standardized time system. You don't have to go very far east or west before solar noon, and thus local time, varied. What would it mean to say the train is arriving at 3 pm if no one agreed when 3 pm occurred? So the railroads divided the country into four time zones, more or less the zones we have today, and decreed that 3 pm meant 3 pm railroad time. Because there was one transportation system that had to be coordinated, there had to be one time system.

So that bit of history leads to a suspicion. Why is UC-systemwide pushing for all campuses to have the same calendar unless, like the railroads, it wants them to operate as a single educational system without the current campus autonomy? And why take away autonomy? The only reason yours truly can come up with - apart from a power grab - is online education. There is always the dream of fewer courses, fewer programs, etc., if the whole UC system was condensed into a single institution.

The various campus faculty associations have raised concerns about the current plan to convert to semesters systemwide.* But the fundamental question is "Why?"

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*<https://cucfa.org/2025/02/concern-regarding-the-apcs-common-systemwide-calendar-work/>.

Posted by California Policy Issues at 3:20 AM No comments: 

Labels: [UC](#), [UC-Berkeley](#), [UC-Merced](#)

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